



27th District

www.sen.ca.gov/Lowenthal

THE LOWENTHAL LETTER

From the Desk of Senator Alan Lowenthal



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Dear friends,

As we head into the “Dog Days” of summer, I would like to thank you for reading the 2nd edition of the Lowenthal Letter. The legislature has just passed a budget and are getting ready to wrap up the first of a two year session.

I would like to thank those of you who responded to the last newsletter. If you found this information useful, please send me the emails of your friends and family so that I can add them to the newsletter distribution list. As always, I would like to encourage your feedback, and suggestions on what else we should include?

I am proud to have held my first neighborhood coffee in Bellflower. It was a pleasure to meet local residents and members of the city council to discuss numerous issues including workers compensation, transportation and education. The input I received greatly assisted me as those issues arose in the Senate. I look forward to future coffees elsewhere in District 27.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Alan Lowenthal
Senator, District 27

District Profile

Lynwood



In 1810, Don Antonio Lugo, after serving 17 years in the army, received a grant to a parcel of land of some 29,514 acres. He named it Rancho San Antonio, probably after his birthplace, El Mission San Antonio de Padua, in Jolon, California. Antonio Lugo received a deed from the United States government on July 24, 1847, which made him undisputed owner of Rancho San Antonio, which became the birthplace of Lynwood.

In 1902, C.H. Sessions acquired title of about 400 acres of Rancho San Antonio and established a dairy and creamery, and named it

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The State of **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

This year the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, chaired by Senator Alan Lowenthal, addressed legislation covering a variety of environmental issues, ranging from global climate change, greenhouse gas limits, brownfields, environmental justice, California Environmental Quality Act, recycling, solid waste, water quality, and economic development while protecting the health of surrounding communities. In all, the Committee has deliberated on approximately 90 individual bills introduced by dozens of legislators from around the state.

The Committee's jurisdiction focuses primarily on matters administered under the California Environmental Protection Agency, which is comprised of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the California Air Resources Board and local air districts, the State Water Resources Control Board and regional water quality control boards, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Prior to each committee hearing, Senator Lowenthal conducts extensive reviews of the many bills that are presented by individual legislators. His reviews include summaries of existing laws and regulations, statements by proponents and opponents, and analyses that frequently identify how policies are addressed in other states or countries, the consequences of bill proposals, needed amendments, and perspectives that might not otherwise be presented by a particular interest group.

Some bills considered and approved by the committee include SB 655 (Ortiz) relating to

mapping and notification of naturally occurring asbestos in communities, SB 771 (Simitian) to reduce wastes from ships, SB 832 (Perata, Lowenthal, Torlakson) to revise the California Environmental Quality Act to encourage infill development while ensuring that environmental concerns are addressed, SB 849 (Escutia) to coordinate state environmental health databases, AB 371 (Goldberg) to establish the Water Recycling Act of 2005 that creates incentives for recycling water, AB 1125 (Pavley) to enact the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act of 2006 establishing a system for collecting and recycling used rechargeable batteries, and AB 1365 (Ruskin) to revise state planning priorities by setting greenhouse gas emission reduction levels.

In conjunction with Senator Lowenthal's chairing the Environmental Quality Committee, he also serves as one of three senators on the Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy. In this capacity, Senator Lowenthal reviews the governor's Budget, maintains a check on the actual performance of state agencies and what they are doing to improve California's environment, and the need for any additional resources.

Behind the Budget

Under constitutional law, the California State legislature is required to pass a no less than 2/3 supported budget by June 15th. The approved budget must then be signed by the Governor. With financial implications for the next year(s) to come it is no coincidence that the budget is a hotly debated issue. After much debate and discussion the Legislature passed a budget that was signed by the Governor on July 11, 2005. The agreed upon budget provided for:

- Increases spending by \$3 billion, or nearly \$400 per student above this year's level of about \$7,020 in kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Keeps the commitment to transportation under

See Budget on page 4

Table Talk: Redistricting – How will the lines be drawn?

With a special election looming in the not to distant future, there will be several new propositions that Californians will be asked to vote on. From teacher tenure to autopilot budget cuts, the average person is being asked to vote on issues they know very little about. One of the more prominent issues that may be on this special election ballot will deal with redistricting. Redistricting is the process by which political districts are drawn. Redistricting traditionally happens every 10 years to coincide with the Census. The issue of redistricting has been in the news since the November 2004 election, when out of 154 open seats, not one switched parties. This was attributed to anti-competitive district lines which were drawn to create “safe seats”. To help educate my constituents I will present a simplified version of the current redistricting process against the Governor’s proposal and one that I have introduced in the Senate.

Current Law

Summary:

- Requires the legislature to adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, Assembly, Senate and BOE districts for the year after the census information is released.

- Legislature draws the district lines in a proposal that requires a 2/3s vote by both the Senate and Assembly and approval by the Governor.

- Does not require members of the legislature to conduct public meetings within their districts

Pros:

- Utilizes legislators that are familiar with the redistricting process to draw the district lines

Cons:

- Allows the Legislature to draw lines that will help themselves and their party

Governor’s Proposal

Summary:

- Deletes the Legislature’s ability to adjust the boundary lines for redistricting.

- Requires three-member panel of retired judges, selected by legislative leaders, to adopt new redistricting plan.

- Panel must consider legislative, public proposals and comments, and hold public hearings.

- Plan becomes effective immediately when adopted by judges’ panel and filed with Secretary of State.

Pros:

- Takes redistricting out of the hands of the legislature
- Provides for public input

Cons:

- Goes into effect in 2008 and relies on 2000 data
- Disfranchise some citizens for up to 6 years

SCA 3 (Lowenthal)

Summary:

- Deletes the Legislature’s ability to adjust the boundary lines for redistricting.

- The commission will be appointed by the Governor, President pro Tem, Speaker, Senate/Assembly Minority Leaders, Judicial Council, and the President of the University of California

- The appointing authorities must make every effort to ensure that the members of the Commission represent California's racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity.

- Require each member of the Legislature to conduct at least two "town hall" meetings.

Pros:

- Takes redistricting out of the hands of the legislature
- Provides for public input

Cons:

- Legislature may still be too involved

Lynwood Continued from page 1

after his wife, the former Miss Lynne Wood. In 1929 Pacific Electric Railroad installed a train depot on the corner of Long Beach Blvd. and Fernwood Avenue. Given its proximity to the Lynwood Dairy, the railway adopted the Lynwood name for the depot.

Lynwood's first school district, (the Lugo School District) was formed in the 1880's. In 1934 the total registration in Lynwood schools was 1282. Today, there are 9 elementary schools, 1 junior high, and 1 high school, with an enrollment of 13,083.

Lynwood is now a thriving city with 70,000+ residents. To learn more about Lynwood you can visit them at www.lynwood.ca.us

Budget Continued from page 2

Proposition 42 that shifts a share of the state sales tax from the general fund to transportation, for roads and transit. This budget will also provide a \$1.3 billion boost to transportation construction.

- Repays a year early \$1.2 billion to cities, counties and special districts.
- Higher education gets a nearly 10% increase in state funding and fee increases are limited to 8% at the UC and CSU campuses. Fees will be frozen at the community colleges.

The budget is balanced, it pays down our debt, and it does not include any new borrowing or taxes. It is something the Legislature and the Governor can be proud of and hopefully a sign of future bi-partisan efforts to come.

Upcoming Event in Lynwood



Community BBQ and Health Fair Los Amigos Park

(On El Segundo behind Lindbergh Elementary School)

July 23, 2005

10:00 am – 3:00pm

“Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs”

- Games • Jumpers • Bicycle Rodeo • Food
- Information Booths • Health Screenings •

For information call: (310) 603-0220 ext. 319

From Lynwood



Weird Al Yankovic grew up in the City of Lynwood and attended Lynwood High School

Big Hits: “Smells Like Nirvana”, “Achy Breaky Song”, “Yoda”, “My Bologna”, “Eat It”, “Like A Surgeon”, “Girls Just Want To Have Lunch”, “I Think I’m A Clone Now”, “The White Stuff”, “Amish Paradise”, “Pretty Fly For A Rabbi” and much much more!

Check him out at: www.weirdal.com

Legislative Update

SCA 3 – Reapportionment. Creates the Citizens' Commission on Boundaries and Accountability, composed of 7 members, which would be charged with establishing congressional, Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization districts; and, requires the commission to make recommendations to improve existing legislative procedures. **STATUS: PASSED Senate Elections, Reapportionment & Constitutional Amendments 6/29/05.**

SB 59 – Public Safety: firearms. Requires any person whose handgun is stolen or irretrievably lost to report the theft or loss to a local law enforcement agency within 5 days after discovering that the handgun was lost or stolen. **STATUS: Assembly Floor on Inactive File 7/11/05.**

SB 467 – Carl Moyer program: non-road equipment. Allows non-road electric equipment, such as electric forklift airport ground support equipment, which replaces similar internal combustion engine equipment, to be eligible for incentives under the Carl Moyer grant program. **STATUS: Assembly Floor 3rd Reading File 7/11/05.**

SB 479 – Childhood obesity mitigation: Long Beach. Establishes the Long Beach Childhood Obesity Mitigation Pilot Project, to test the effectiveness of a multijurisdictional, public-private partnership effort to mitigate the problem of childhood obesity. The project shall establish policies and procedures that give preference to Medi-Cal eligible children whose participation which will generate federal matching funds. **STATUS: Assembly Appropriations -- placed on Suspense File 6/29/05.**

SB 760 -- Ports: congestion relief: security enhancement: environmental mitigation: user fee. Sets a user fee of \$30 per each shipping container processed at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Specifies that funds from the user fee be used in the following manner: one-third of the user fee goes to the South Coast Air Quality Management District to mitigate environmental pollution caused by the movement of cargo to and from the ports via commercial motor vehicles, ocean-going vessels, and rail; one-third to the California Transportation Commission to alleviate congestion on highways serving the ports by improving the rail system that transports shipments from and to those ports and the on-dock rail facilities at those ports; and one-third of the funds split between the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles for port security projects. **STATUS:**

Assembly Appropriations hearing 8/17/05.

SCR 40 – LNG Siting: FERC. Memorializes the President and Congress to take necessary action to preserve state and local authority over the siting of liquefied natural gas facilities. Declares that California deserves siting authority over LNG facilities within its borders. Opposes FERC's attempt to gain eminent domain authority for siting LNG facilities in the United States. **STATUS: PASSED Assembly, Adopted 7/5/05.**

SCR 48 – City of Paramount: Hay Tree. Declares that specified exits on State Highway Routes 91, 710, and 105 should be designated with signs noting the presence of the Paramount Hay Tree, a state historical landmark in the City of Paramount. **STATUS: Senate Transportation and Housing Committee hearing 7/12/05.**

My Committee Assignments

Standing Committees

- Environmental Quality (Chair)
- Banking, Finance & Insurance
- Budget and Fiscal Review
- Education
- Labor and Industrial Relations
- Natural Resources and Water
- Transportation and Housing

Joint Committee

- Fisheries and Aquaculture

Sub Committees

- California Ports and International Trade
- Budget Sub #2
- Los Angeles County MTA
- Higher Education

Select Committees

- Air Quality
- Coastal Protection and Watershed Conservation
- Defense and Aerospace



How to Contact Me

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DID YOU KNOW?

(Filibuster)

Definition: The use of tactics, especially prolonged speechmaking, for the purpose of delaying legislative action.



(Mr. Smith goes to Washington)

Strom Thurmond holds the record for the longest filibuster, speaking for 24 hours and 18 minutes.

Meet My Staff



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Bridget Sramek, Field Representative
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